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of the war settlement, to renew as soon as possible those relationships that have been sundered and to bring the voice of the womanhood of the world to bear on those who will hold the destinies of the nations in their hands.

The first plank of the platform was changed from that written three years ago: "The immediate calling of a neutral conference in the interest of early peace," to "a league of nations, open to all nations, to be made an integral part of the war settlement."

The Secretary in her report said: "We rejoice that other organizations are taking up the question of the conscientious objector, the preservation of civil rights, etc., but we have not departed, and ought not to depart, as an organization from our special educational and congressional work, which was never more sadly needed, and for which we ought to fit ourselves in the reconstruction period which we now face." This did not imply that the various branches are not doing relief work as well. After careful consideration of a special relief work among women and children in the war-devastated regions it was found that so much varied work had already been begun that it was better for each branch and each member to carry on such work independently. The Secretary reported on her addresses given this year in eleven different States, and said that since our entrance into war she was finding no difficulty in presenting the essential principles of the organization under such titles as "The New Preparedness," "After the War, What?" "The Teacher's Task in War Time" and "Civic Efficiency in War Time." With a little tact, even in a superheated atmosphere, it has been possible to speak to grammar, high, and normal schools, to clubs and churches upon what the world will be if the war system continues after this war; to show that war cannot end war; that shrapnel and tanks cannot usher in the era of human brotherhood; that military victory alone cannot ensure a world safe for democracy, and to show to appreciative listeners the stupendous importance of a democratic war settlement on the basis of a League of Nations. So far from the work of the Woman's Peace Party being suspended, it was never more needed. If rightly understood it ought to bring large accession of members now.

The fact that its purposes have so often been misunderstood induced the strong Massachusetts branch to urge unanimously a change of name. This was, however, voted down. Since all New York members are now voters, the New York branch will focus its attention on persuading women to use their vote to promote a just war settlement and to secure as many as possible of the 43 Congressmen to pledge themselves to a war settlement based on a League of Nations, universal disarmament and free trade. The little paper issued under its auspices will be discontinued.

Miss Addams as national chairman, Mrs. Anna Garlin Spencer as first vice chairman, and Mrs. Mead as national secretary, were re-elected. Mrs. Eleanor G. Karsten will act as executive secretary at the national headquarters, Chicago. Of the new members of the board none is better fitted to deal with international questions than Prof. Emily G. Balch, of Wellesley College, who is just now issuing a book entitled, "Some Approaches to the Great Settlement."

On Thursday evening the delegates adjourned to listen to addresses by Dr. Frederick Lynch and Mr. Norman Angell, and the meeting closed with remarks by Miss Addams. Mr. Angell's address on "An Inter-Allied Conference" displayed masterly statesmanship. He showed the imperative necessity, if military victory is to be achieved, of harmonizing the various political aims of the Allies and of the need of long preparation in advance if the people are to have any voice in the war settlement. Unless the people now insist that they are to be represented in this momentous settlement a small body of eminent gentlemen, as out of touch with ordinary humanity as Lord Milner and Sir Edward Carson, will sit behind closed doors and will shape the future of mankind for generations. When over twenty nations are involved, whatever is agreed to cannot be changed for a long time to come, however much the weary and disappointed masses may fret and suffer.

Nothing in all history equals the far-reaching significance of the settlement which an unprepared world is ere long to face. The chief task of the Woman's Peace Party, as of every peace society in the precious time before that great event, is to spread the knowledge necessary to a just and lasting peace.

THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY

By HAROLD G. TOWNSEND

EACH day drives home more and more the force and logic of the new slogan of the American Peace Society, "A Governed World." Without the fulfillment of this proposal there can be no such thing as a world peace that is durable. The education of the people to a full conception of this great fact and principle is the responsibility and privilege of the American Peace Society. Other organizations have presented proposals which are quite acceptable as details of a scheme for world peace, but the proposal of the American Peace Society of "A Governed World" is a comprehensive and all-inclusive plan that has for its sanction, not only principle and logic, but practicability. It is not only the proper function, but the obligation of the oldest peace organization in America to stress with earnestness and enthusiasm by speech, pen, and argument this great principle of world freedom and international peace. Never in its history has such a great opportunity been available to promote the object for which the Society was founded. To meet this challenge in an hour when those members who do not possess a true knowledge of its objective are relinquishing their former adherence calls forth sacrifice, patience, endurance and the highest confidence from the faithful and the better informed.

In re-examining the program of the Society entrusted with this great responsibility we find its logic and practicability coincides with the program and logic of the United States of America in becoming, against its wishes, a participant in the present world war. Therefore, the members of the American Peace Society can participate to the fullest degree in promoting every agency which will aid in winning a victory which prom-

ises the greatest fulfillment of peace among men that a governed people can promote through the means of force. The advancement of liberty, democracy and justice causes governed nations to consider more closely the laws of humanity. The extension of these principles to the family of nations will hasten the day when the governed nations will demand the benefits of a governed world. No sane person expects to reorganize the world in a day, so the winning of the present war will not produce a completely governed world, but it will create a mighty stimulus toward it. Therein lies the opportunity of the American Peace Society! Have its members the courage, the fortitude, the sincerity of purpose and the patriotism for a God-given cause to sustain a seeming inconsistency of supporting and opposing the same thing at the same time, in order to gain its ultimate objective? The strong, the fearless, the intelligent men and women who have a vision for the ultimate success of a great and noble cause will assume this responsibility and carry forward this ancient yet modern proposal for the relief of mankind.

Throughout this great war their sincerity will be tested by the consistency of their actions with the things they profess and teach. If they are not found wanting, there will open up for them tremendous possibilities for successful operation, and they will have played no small part in hastening the realization of a governed world, and with it the relation of peace between nations which promises the fulfillment of the principles of the brotherhood of man.

CURRENT FORERUNNERS OF A LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Notes of the English League of Nations Society, of which Viscount Bryce is President, as Forwarded to the Boston Christian Science Monitor.

IF THE WORLD is to be made "safe for democracy," it can only be done by frankly facing the question of the relation of the democracies to militarism, of the substitution of the arbitrament of reason for that of war, and ultimately of abolition of competition in armaments—in other words, of all the problems involved in the establishment of a league of nations. It is this fact which gives interest to men of all parties in the schemes now being put forward by the Socialist parties, among others, in different countries.

Within the last three months the project of a league of nations has come strikingly to the front in French Socialist politics, stimulated largely by the adoption by the special committee of the French Socialist Party of the proposals in the Stockholm manifesto. In this manifesto the league of nations is regarded as the only permanent guarantee of peace; it maintains that the particular problems of the settlement must be dealt with in accordance with the ideas of public right which the league will uphold. The league itself must be such an integral part of settlement that its formation cannot possibly be left until after the war.

The French Socialists, when formulating the terms upon which they were prepared to enter the projected Ribot and actual Painlevé governments, urged that it would be well for the allied governments to establish

between themselves, without delay, a system of arbitration, with published treaties, which would permanently ensure the equitable settlement of disputes between them. The French Socialists have also demanded that the league shall be based "upon the faith" of all the peoples involved, and have formulated certain practical proposals for the establishment of this condition. They propose that the admittance of any nation into the league shall be conditioned by the sanction of the national parliaments.

On September 19, M. Lemery, in an address to the French Government, declared that the question of the establishment of the league of nations was no longer merely an academic one. The league was already in existence, but it should be provided with machinery; the legal and political principles and the economic constitution of the league should be defined. To this M. Painlevé answered, that the government was convinced that it would be able to carry through the project of forming a league of nations; but he added that the solution did not rest with them alone. The formation of the league depended largely on England's willingness to co-operate.

The idea of the league has been widely discussed in the French press, notably in an article in *L'Oeuvre*, which insists that universal peace can only be led up to and brought into being and guaranteed by the league of nations. The *Petit Parisien* has lately published a striking article by M. Jules Destree, Belgian Ambassador in Petrograd, urging the immediate establishment of the league. He contends that each nation's war program will extend mathematically, or contract, according to the chances of the league becoming bad or good.

The organizing committee of the Stockholm Conference in the manifesto just issued, outlining the general conditions of peace, states that in order to give peace a durable character, the contracting parties are to declare themselves ready to create a society of nations on a basis of compulsory arbitration and general disarmament. The Nationalist Congress of the Socialist Party at Bordeaux has passed a resolution declaring that although the French Government has made satisfactory declaration on war aims, and the Chamber of Deputies has proclaimed at public sessions its intention to prepare the society of nations and reject all tendency towards conquest and annexation, all the Allies have not done the same thing to the same extent. The resolution declares it is therefore necessary that the Government of France, profiting by the initiative of the Russian Revolution, shall obtain from the Allies a common declaration that will make international rights the sole basis of the national claims of each of them.

In the draft of the new constitution drawn up by the Labor Party in this country, the objects of the party under the international heading are defined as follows: "To co-operate with the labor organizations in other countries, and to assist in organizing a federation of nations for the maintenance of freedom and peace, and for the establishment of suitable machinery for the adjustment and settlement of international disputes by conciliation or judicial arbitration, and for such international legislation as may be practicable."

In 1916 a small group of men in France undertook to study the principal subjects involved, and to promote the organization of a society of nations endowed with the